
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	27 October 2022
Report By:	Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration	Report No:	ENV041/22/JH
Contact Officer:	Jennifer Horn	Contact No:	01475 715573
Subject:	Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (GRI) LEADER/ Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Update		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to outline the proposed approach to Community Led Local Development for Inverclyde and the wider Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde area and the work required for the following funding from EU funded LEADER.
- 1.3 Following the conclusion of the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (GRI) LEADER programme for 2014 – 2020 this report advises Board of a request from Scottish Government to support delivery of a new Community Led Local Development (CLLD) programme for 2022/23, which replaces (in part) GRI LEADER.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- Note the conclusion of the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde (GRI) LEADER 2014-2020 programme and the interim Rural Communities Testing Change (RCTC) Fund;
 - Note the offer from Scottish Government to award £115,520 to the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde area for the delivery of the Community Led Local Development (CLLD) programme for 2022/23;
 - Agree that Renfrewshire Council continues as Lead Partner and Accountable Body for the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Area;
 - Delegate authority to the Interim Director, Environment and Regeneration, to work with Renfrewshire Council and deliver the requirements of the Community Led Local Development programme.

Stuart Jamieson
Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 LEADER was a European funded programme for rural areas which was administered in Scotland through the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP). The aim of LEADER was to increase support to local rural community and businesses networks, to build knowledge and skills and encourage innovation and cooperation to tackle local development objectives.
- 3.2 The GRI Leader programme was previously awarded £2,188,244 to support local social and economic development projects in rural Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde through the 2014-2020 programme. This was the first time that the three local authorities had collaborated to develop joint LEADER programme.
- 3.3 The vision for the GRI LEADER Programme was “To improve the quality of life in our rural areas by supporting local people and local businesses to realise the social, economic and environmental potential of their communities”. GRI Local Development Strategy, 2014-2020.
- 3.4 A Local Action Group (LAG) supported delivery of the Local Development Strategy (LDS), with match funding provided to projects which addressed the key objectives and priorities. The LAG comprised of representatives from the three local authorities, community council/groups, third sector, businesses, residents, and wider stakeholders.
- 3.5 The LAG decided which projects applications met eligibility requirements and could therefore be funded. Over the period of the programme the LAG approved 25 projects, including 7 projects in Inverclyde and two cooperation projects with other areas across Scotland.

4.0 Proposals

Rural Communities Testing Change Fund

- 4.1 With LEADER ending, the Scottish Government was interested in how the approach to rural support and intervention might be enhanced. During 2021 they invited submissions under its Rural Communities Testing Change (RCTC) Fund for projects to test new approaches to delivering community-led local development.
- 4.2 The GRI LEADER LAG, with officer support from Renfrewshire Council, submitted a bid to the RCTC Fund, which aimed to explore the development of community-led tourism in the rural, cross-boundary area. The LAG was successful in securing funding of £50,0000 and consultants were appointed to carry out necessary research and consultations, on behalf of the LAG, and to compile a Rural Community Tourism Strategy.
- 4.3 The Strategy highlighted the opportunities for further community-led rural tourism development, aligned to the attributes and assets of the area, while addressing weaknesses or threats. The rural tourism approach catalogues what needs to be done by communities to generate economic value for the area, working with and encouraging investment by partner authorities and businesses. The Strategy also identified potential projects, with indicative spending plans for Year One delivery.
- 4.4 The Strategy was submitted to the Scottish Government for consideration regards any ongoing funding discussions to support rural economic development at end of March 2022.

Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme

- 4.5 Following the submission of local strategies from rural areas across Scotland the Scottish Government introduced a Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme for rural areas. The geographical rural areas covered by the CLLD will, in the main replicate those same areas covered by LEADER. This will be the case for Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde.
- 4.6 The CLLD Programme will support communities to progress the local strategy and to tackle their own, local challenges through a local action plan.
- 4.7 The Scottish Government has awarded the GRI £115,520 funding to deliver CLLD programme requirements for the area which has to be spent by 31 March 2023.
- 4.8 An outline Community Led Vision (CLV) identifies two phases of development:
- 4.9 Phase 1: September to December 2022
- That work is required to reinvigorate the LAG and the group's membership Firstly, to increase numbers and ensure the right mix of required knowledge and skills within the group. Secondly, it is a key requirement of Scottish Government that the group fully reflects, and is inclusive of, the diverse range of individuals and organisations represented within rural communities and across all three local authority areas.
 - That the initial work requirements are to engage and consult with local communities and groups, to assist them to understand their role within the LAG and the benefits to the community from their involvement.
- 4.10 Phase 2: Jan-Mar 2023
- The reinvigorated LAG will be supported to review and produce a more detailed community led vision and plan.
- 4.11 The expectation would be for the plan to be delivered from April 2023, subject to appropriate funding being available for future years.

CLLD Programme Management

- 4.12 Following discussions with Scottish Government and local authority colleagues it is proposed that roles and responsibilities will reflect those in place for the previous GRI LEADER programme i.e.:
- Scottish Government (Scottish Rural Network) will be the Managing Authority and Paying Agency for the programme.
 - Renfrewshire Council will remain as the Lead Partner and Accountable Body for the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde area.
 - Inverclyde Council will be represented, along with Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire Councils will be represented on the Local Action Group (LAG).
- 4.13 Renfrewshire Council would accept and administer the £115,520 grant fund on behalf of the GRI area. Part of the funding would support staff cost of 1.4 FTE posts within the Economic Development Team of Renfrewshire Council who would be responsible for CLLD, supporting the LAG to deliver and liaising with Inverclyde Council's Regeneration Service. A similar role for the GRI area was previously supported through the LEADER programme.

4.14 The cost plan put forward to the Scottish Government is set out as follows:

Activity	Timescale	Cost
Admin +Animation 1 day per wk @ £165.14 x28 wks	Oct-Mar	£4,623.83
Coordinator 2 days per wk @ £437.26 x 28 wks	Oct-Mar	£12,243.28
Consultant costs approx.	Oct-Mar	£25,000
Promotional material and advertisements	Oct-Mar	£10,000
Venue and room hire	Oct-Mar	£5000
LAG appointed consultant to write CLV & Business Plan	Jan- Mar	£25,000
Remainder of funds for community groups who need funding assistance to pay for project preparatory work, for example feasibility studies.*		£33,652.89

*. It is hoped that funding towards this type of work will help groups prepare to apply for funding coming forward in the next financial year and enable them to hit the ground running, delivering beneficial projects quickly and efficiently.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	x		
Legal/Risk	x		
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	x		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty		X	
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X	
Environmental & Sustainability		X	
Data Protection		X	

5.2 Finance

The funding will be administered by Renfrewshire Council on behalf of the GRI

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report (000)	Virement From	Other Comments

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments

5.3 Legal/Risk

The Council will be represented on the LAG by a member of the Regeneration Service. There will also be the need to ensure that the representatives on the LAG, have the right skills and knowledge and the group fully reflects and is inclusive of, the diverse range of individuals and organisations represented within rural communities and across Inverclyde.

5.4 Human Resources

None.

5.5 Strategic

The project will seek to work with members of the public to reinvigorate the LAG and then create the community led vision and action plan.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

5.7 Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

5.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

